



STATEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
BY H.E. AMBASSADOR GUDRUN LINGNER
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY TO THE OPCW
AT THE 95th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(The Hague, 6 October 2020)

Subitem 6(h): Technical Secretariat's activities: update on the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria

Mr. Chairperson,

I have asked for the floor to make a statement on behalf of the European Union under this agenda item 6(h).

The re-emergence of chemical weapons is one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) is mandated and has the required expertise and capacity to uphold the object and purpose of the Convention.

In May 2014, the OPCW agreed with the Syrian Arab Republic on the Terms of Reference for the OPCW Fact Finding Mission in Syria (FFM), mandated by the OPCW Executive Council and reinforced by resolutions 2118 (2013) and 2209 (2015) of the United Nations Security Council. Since then, the FFM establishes facts about the alleged use of toxic chemicals as weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic.

We stress once again our full trust in the professionalism, impartiality and objectivity of the FFM, as well as its reports' findings. This has permitted the reports of the FFM to serve as a solid basis to the investigations carried out under the mandate of the United Nations Security Council by the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) and by the OPCW Investigation and Identifications Team mandated by the Fourth Special Conference of the Organization whose outcomes have been duly transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

In line with its mandate, the FFM has issued two new reports, S/1901/2020 and S/1902/2020, dated 1 October 2020. The European Union takes note of these recent FFM reports, and would like to reaffirm our full support for the work of the FFM, which provides a solid foundation for the international community to consider additional future courses of action.

I would kindly ask to consider this statement as an official document and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

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